



Seattle City Council

February 10, 2003

Greg Epperson
Director of Sports
Special Olympics Inc., North America
3948 Browning Place, Suite 202
Raleigh, N.C. 27609

Dear Mr. Epperson,

It with a sense of great pride and excitement that the Seattle City Council today unanimously adopted a resolution expressing our support for efforts of the Seattle Sports Commission and Bob Walsh Enterprises to have Seattle selected to host the inaugural 2006 Special Olympics U.S. National Championships.

For more than a half-century Seattle has welcomed with open arms sports and cultural events that reflect our community's values, character and sense of purpose. Few organizations better represent the values Seattle holds dear than the Special Olympics. As our resolution states, it is with the same spirit of fairness, diversity, and empowerment demonstrated by the Special Olympics that the City of Seattle has embraced programs that offer opportunities for the developmentally disabled to share their talents with our community. These efforts include the Supported Employment Program, through which the City employs nearly 50 people with developmental disabilities in a variety of departments, from the Mayor's Office to our electric utility, Seattle City Light.

Seattle's belief in the unwavering human spirit has manifested itself through these initiatives, as well as our efforts to highlight through sporting events the diversity and achievement of our citizens and friends the world over.

As host of the 1990 Goodwill Games, Seattle gained international recognition as an advocate for the values of sportsmanship and cultural exchange. That event drew more than 2,300 athletes from 54 countries around the world. As our city welcomed the world's best athletes and tens of thousands of spectators for 17 days of competition, more than 10,000 local volunteers opened both their homes and hearts to our distinguished guests.

Volunteerism is a cornerstone of our city's identity. Whenever Seattle has hosted a major sports event, thousands of our citizens have offered their time and energy in a display of goodwill and sportsmanship. In addition to the Goodwill Games, Seattle has successfully hosted a number of major sporting events in recent years, including the National Collegiate Men's Basketball Championship, the Tall Ships Challenge Race Series, the Major League Baseball All-Star Game and the Seattle Bowl. In each case, the people of Seattle have come together to showcase both our city's beauty and our enthusiasm for athletic competition.

1100 Municipal Building, 600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-1876

(206) 684-8888, Fax: (206) 684-8587, TTY: (206) 233-0025

E-Mail Address: council@ci.seattle.wa.us Internet Address: <http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us>

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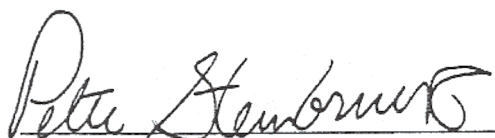
The values shared by the Special Olympics and the City of Seattle are embodied by the oath Special Olympians take at the start of each competition: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Seattle takes great pride in our successful efforts to expand employment, recreation and cultural opportunities for members of our community who everyday meet challenges with enthusiasm and determination. And we are excited at the prospect of welcoming Special Olympians and their families from around the country to our community to celebrate diversity and share in the accomplishments of all participants.

Seattle has pledged its support and cooperation to local bid organizers. The City of Seattle will work to ensure the inaugural Special Olympics U.S. National Championships are an event that brings out the best in us and the best in the participants and visitors we welcome to the Jewel of the Pacific Northwest, our Emerald City.

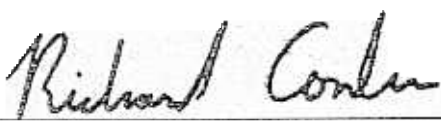
Sincerely,

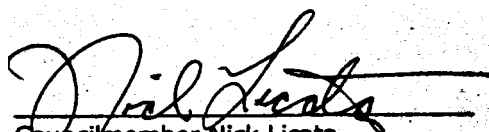

Councilmember Heidi Wills, Sponsor



Councilmember Jan Drago, Co-Sponsor


Council President Peter Steinbrueck

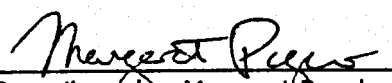

Councilmember Jim Compton


Councilmember Richard Conlin


Councilmember Nick Licata


Councilmember Richard J. McIver


Councilmember Judy Nicastro


Councilmember Margaret Pageler